



**USAID | MACEDONIA**  
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## PRESS RELEASE

### **USAID assistance establishes a successful plastic recycling program in the Municipality of Strumica**

On December 6, 2007, the USAID Plastic Recycling Project signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Municipality of Strumica for the implementation of its plastic waste collection program. USAID has allocated \$30,000 to the Municipality for the construction of convenient "ecological islands" where residents can dispose of plastic waste. The program also includes a comprehensive public awareness campaign to educate youth on the importance of plastic recycling.

"Sustainability is the cornerstone of this project," said USAID Mission Director Patricia Rader at the MOU signing ceremony. "The partnerships it has created – between the donors, the municipalities and the public communal companies – will live long after the project is gone. I applaud all of you, especially Mayor Zoran Zaev, for your strong commitment to the success of this program," said Rader.

Strumica is one of four pilot municipalities that launched plastic recycling campaigns this year. The program, which also promotes recycling as a viable business in Macedonia, impressed numerous mayors throughout the country. Based on the results of the pilot phase, it will be expanded to other municipalities in Macedonia.

#### NOTE TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.